

Preston Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1949

PRESTON :

Printed by E. AMBLER, 37 Shepherd Street.

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G. G. WRAY, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Retired 28/2/50).

Other Public Appointments :

M.O.H. Leyland U.D.C., M.O.H. Longridge U.D.C., M.O.H. Withnell U.D.C.,
Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire C.C., Health Division 4.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

H. COLLIER, A.M.I.S.E., A.R. San. I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

J. GIBSON, M.R. San. I.

T. BAXTER, M.R. San. I.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

Due to Dr. Wray's retirement from office, I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Preston Rural District in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1949, together with the vital statistics relative to that period.

At the suggestion of the Ministry of Health, the report is once again of the interim type.

Though certain alterations have been made to the structure of the Report—principally omissions relating to Public Health Services, which now come under the jurisdiction of the Divisional Medical Officer—the body of the Report dealing with Environmental Hygiene remains unchanged.

Referring to the vital statistics, it is satisfactory to record that though three deaths occurred under the heading of Maternal Mortality, only four deaths have been recorded during the past four years, an average of one death per year.

More satisfactory still is the decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate to the record low figure of 22. This is one of the most pleasing features of the entire report.

The live-birth rate at 15.2 per thousand of the population shows an increase over the preceding year of 0.8. This increase in total live births is further enhanced by a decrease in the number of illegitimate births from 25 in 1948 to 19 in 1949. The still-birth rate of 14 per thousand total births was the lowest ever recorded.

The crude death rate at 10.5 per thousand of the estimated resident population shows an increase on the previous year of 1.0: heart disease, which accounted for 35 per cent. of total deaths, being the principal cause of death. This and the high rates from cancer and cerebral vascular lesions are associated with the ageing of the population.

The pulmonary tuberculosis death-rate at 0.21 per thousand of the estimated mean civil population shows a slight increase over the rate for the previous year of 0.03, but is still a considerable reduction on the rates for 1947 and 1946.

The effect of preventive methods against diphtheria is shown by the fact that no notifications were received, nor deaths notified for the second year in succession; a very considerable achievement.

No case of Smallpox was notified. Although there was an increase in the notification of Scarlet Fever from 46 to 89, there were no deaths.

Three cases of Acute Poliomyelitis occurred during the year, as against one case in the previous year. One death was recorded. Reports on the cases were submitted to the County Medical Officer of Health.

It will be seen from the statistics referred to that the health of the residents has continued to make satisfactory progress, and there is every reason to believe that this progress will be maintained.

The supervision over the purity of foods, especially milk and ice-cream, was continued throughout the year. The improvement noted in former years continued, but constant and potent efforts must be devoted to this side of the Department's work, if even a reasonable degree of purity be desired.

Constant sampling, visits to dairies, education and practical tuition will always be necessary, and cannot be relaxed. However, during the year, the forces of cleanliness received a powerful stimulus by the receipt of the Ministry of Food Model Bye-Laws (Series 1), relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and sale of food in the Open Air. Though the question of adoption had not been decided at the end of the year, I am confident that this will not be long delayed.

Other legislation relating to the production and distribution of milk came into force during the year making vast changes in administration. (See text of report).

It was reported last year that some form of encouragement should be given to owners of houses voluntarily to maintain their properties, and so keep them in a reasonable state of repair. The Housing Act, 1949, a brief summary of which is given in the paragraph on Housing, is a step in this direction.

I am glad to be in a position to state that owing to the assistance given the Council by the Licensing Justices, a very considerable amount of very useful work has been accomplished in the way of making additional sanitary provision to meet the requirements of the increasing motor coach traffic which takes place during the summer and early autumn, especially during the period of the Blackpool Illuminations. However, much has still to be done, if one considers the numerous complaints which were received in this respect.

Unsewered Areas. It is pleasing for me to record that schemes for sewerage the Parishes of Grimsargh, Lea, Longton, Hutton, Much Hoole and Little Hoole are in course of preparation, but it would be more pleasing if I could say they were in operation. I do not need to stress the urgency of this matter, as I am sure everyone concerned fully appreciates this point.

Water Supplies. Though everything possible has been done by this Authority to improve the water supply to certain parishes, very little improvement can be achieved until the materials supply position improves.

The work of the Department has proceeded with nothing of outstanding note to record, and the continued good service of all members of the staff is gratefully acknowledged.

In directing the attention of Members of the Council to these features of the report, I desire to thank them on behalf of the Public Health Department for their support and considerate administration, and in particular the Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and helpful guidance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Physical Features of the Area.

The Rural District is largely a lowland area, mainly below 250 feet, lying largely to the north of the River Ribble, but with considerable extensions south of the river, south-west and east of Preston. In the extreme north of the district the land rises rapidly to 874 feet at Beacon Fell, and in the east heights of over a thousand feet are attained on the southern slopes of Longridge Fell. North of Preston the drainage is largely eastwards to the River Wyre, while the rest of the district drains directly or indirectly into the Ribble.

The solid geological formations represented in the district are the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Marl. These formations are rarely seen at the surface, however, because they are buried beneath a thick cover of "drift" deposits. Apart from the valley alluvium of the rivers and streams and the raised terraces along the Ribble and Darwen, the "drift" is composed of glacial boulder clay, sand and gravel.

The latter occur only as impersistent patches on the boulder clay, such as that to the north-east of Goosnargh, or is exposed in the sides of the many stream valleys. Boulder clay covers most of the district, and in general gives rise to a heavy clay soil. The numerous marl pits which were dug many years ago to obtain material to lighten the soil are a characteristic feature of boulder clay areas. The heavy clay soils provide excellent pastures which support dairy herds, and arable farming is of lesser importance. Poultry farming is widespread, as it is throughout the whole of the Fylde area.

The solid rocks have little effect on the physical features of the area because of the thick drift cover. Over much of the area this thick cover renders it impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the nature and structure of the underlying rocks unless borings are undertaken. In the extreme north and east of the district, however, the solid formations outcrop at the surface. These outcrops belong to the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit formations. The former is the oldest formation represented in the district, but here it does not carry the massive limestone beds so characteristic of other areas, e.g., Clitheroe. It is composed of a thick series of shales with thin limestones, the Worston Shales and the Pendleside Limestone series which underlie the greater part of the parishes of Goosnargh, Whittingham and Houghton. Towards the top of the latter there is a rather thicker limestone bed, the Pendleside Limestone, which occurs on the northern flanks of Longridge Fell. The top of the Carboniferous Limestone is formed by the Lower Bowland Shales, which contains a fairly characteristic grit band, the Pendleside Grit. These occur on Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell. The Millstone Grit is represented by a series of grits and shales. The lowest beds are the Upper Bowland Shales, which are succeeded by the massive Pendle Grit. This latter forms the conspicuous features of Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell, and together with the overlying shales and grits, underlie the parishes of Hothersall, Ribchester and Dutton. Millstone Grit shales and grits are present beneath the "drift" in the southern part of the parish of Samlesbury, and the north-east part of Grimsargh parish. The grits in this area have not been tried as a source of water supply, so the potentiality of water bores is not known. Results from boring in grits vary considerably according to the nature of the grit and its openness of grain and extent of the jointing and fissuring.

West of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit occurs the Triassic Bunter Sandstone, a fairly hard red, yellow or buff-coloured sandstone. The details of structure and the position of faults are only assumed, but the following picture has been obtained by the study of available bore records. The Bunter Sandstone is faulted against or overlies the more steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone shales, and the Millstone Grit to the east and south-east. The sandstone dips gently to the north-west and occurs beneath the drift in the parishes of Barton, Woodplumpton, Lea, Hutton, Penwortham, Cuerdale, the south-west part of the parish of Grim-sargh and the north-west part of Samlesbury parish. It is affected by strong faults the exact positions of which are difficult to determine. The Bunter Sandstone is an excellent source of underground water, and there are several private water wells in Preston which draw on this source. It is probable that further supplies could be obtained north of Preston, but care would be needed in the siting of the wells.

Keuper Marl, thinly bedded, fine grained red marls with bands and patches of green-coloured marls and thin bands of fine grained sandstone or "skerries" are present beneath the boulder clay in the parishes of Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole and Farington. The beds dip north-westwards and are separated from the Bunter Sandstone to the north by a fault. Borings in Keuper Marl give little or no water, and that which is obtained is too highly mineralised to be of use for public supply.

General Statistics

STATISTICS AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

- (1) Area in acres—50,318.
- (2) Population (Census 1931)—27,626.
- (3) Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1949—38,080.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)—7,138.
- (5) Number of inhabited houses end of 1949 according to Rate Books—11,173.
- (6) Rateable value—£222,844.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate—£900 (31st March, 1949, estimated).

The social conditions generally do not alter, nor do the occupations of the resident population. The production of milk and poultry farming occupy important positions, and there is considerable industry in market gardening. The employment available is of a healthy character. There are four cotton mills, two paper mills and two small iron foundries in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

| Subject | Total | Males | Fe- males | Rates per 1000 of the estimated resident population | | | Rate per 1000 Total (live & still) Births |
|--|-------|-------|--------------|--|---------------------|------------------------|---|
| | | | | Birth rate | Crude death rate | Adjusted death rate | |
| <i>Live Births</i> | | | | | | | |
| Legitimate ... | 561 | 270 | 291 | 15.2 | — | — | — |
| Illegitimate ... | 19 | 11 | 8 | | | | |
| Total ... | 580 | 281 | 299 | | | | |
| <i>Still Births</i> ... | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | 3 | 5 | — | — | — | 14 |
| <i>Deaths</i> .. | | | | | | | |
| | 401 | 201 | 200 | — | 10.5 | 10.1 | — |
| <i>Deaths from Puerperal causes.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis... | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 3.40 |
| Other maternal causes | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1.70 |
| Total ... | 3 | | | | | | 5.10 |

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

| | |
|---|----|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 22 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 21 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 53 |

Deaths from

| | |
|--|------|
| Cancer (all ages) | 59 |
| Measles (all ages) | Nil. |
| Whooping Cough (all ages) | Nil. |
| Diarrhoea (under two years of age) | 1 |

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

| Per 1,000 of Population | | | | | Maternal Mortality Rate | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Live Birth Rate | Crude Death Rate | Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis | Death Rate from Cancer | Per 1000 Live Births | Per 1000 Total Live and Still Births | Infantile Mortality Rate |
| Mean 5 years 1939-43 | 15.1 | 10.6 | 0.27 | 1.35 | 1.40 | 1.34 | 50 |
| Mean 5 years 1944-48 | 16.1 | 10.9 | 0.27 | 1.65 | 2.39 | 2.33 | 41 |
| 1948 | 14.4 | 9.5 | 0.18 | 1.77 | Nil | Nil | 34 |
| 1949 | 15.2 | 10.5 | 0.21 | 1.55 | 5.17 | 5.10 | 22 |
| County of Lancaster (1949) | 15.99 | 12.72 | 0.21 | 1.81 | 0.99 | 0.97 | 38 |
| England and Wales (1949) | 16.7 | 11.7 | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | 0.98 | 32 |
| Increase or decrease in 1949 on 5 years ... Average 1944-48 for Preston R.D. ... | — 0.9 | — 0.4 | — 0.06 | — 0.10 | + 2.78 | + 2.77 | — 19 |
| Previous year ... | + 0.8 | + 1.0 | + 0.03 | — 0.22 | + 5.17 | + 5.10 | — 12 |

N.A.—Not Available.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Live Births. The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the rural area during the year 1949 numbered 580 (males 281, females 299); 34 less than in the year 1948.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated population corresponds to 15.2 per 1,000. Last year the rate was 14.4.

The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1949 was 16.7. That for 126 County Boroughs and great towns, including London, was 18.7.

Still-Births. Eight still-births were registered in the Rural District (males 3, females 5), equal to a rate of 14 per 1,000 live and still births.

Deaths. The net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1949 were 401. This total includes deaths of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the District, and is exclusive of deaths (mainly in the Whittingham Mental Hospital and Ribchester Institution) of those persons not belonging to the Rural District.

The death-rate for the Rural District, calculated on a population of 38,080 is 10.5 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 9.5. The average death-rate for the five years 1944-1948 was 10.9.

This year the Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparative from the mortality point of view, with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate using the comparability factor is 10.1 per 1,000.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1949 was 11.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population. For the 126 County Boroughs and great towns, including London, the rate was 12.5.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Eight deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System; males 4, females 4, corresponding to a death-rate of 0.21 per 1,000 of the population. In 1939, this rate was 0.25, and 0.32 in 1929. The death rate for 1949 shows a slight increase over the rate for 1948 which was 0.18 per 1,000, but is considerably less than the rates for 1947 and 1946, which were 0.27 and 0.43 respectively.

BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA.

Bronchitis in 1949 contributed 18 deaths, against 15 deaths in 1948.

Pneumonia (all forms) gave rise to 15 deaths, 8 more than last year.

Influenza caused two deaths against three last year.

CANCER.

During 1949 there were 59 deaths (25 males, 34 females) ascribed to Cancer. The location of the disease was as follows:—

| | Males | Females |
|---|-------|---------|
| Cancer of the mouth, tongue, gullet, uterus | 2 | 5 |
| Cancer of stomach and duodenum | 2 | 3 |
| Cancer of the breast | — | 6 |
| Cancer of other sites | 21 | 20 |

The following table shows the causes of death distinguishing males and females:—

| Causes of Death. | | Males. | Females. |
|--|-----------------|--------|----------|
| All Causes | ..... | 201 | 200 |
| Diabetes | ..... | ... | 1 |
| Influenza | .... | 1 | 1 |
| Respiratory Tuberculosis | .... | 4 | 4 |
| Other Forms of Tuberculosis | ..... | 2 | 3 |
| Cancer | ..... | 25 | 34 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | .... | ... | 1 |
| Intracranial Vascular Lesions | .... | 20 | 32 |
| Heart Disease | ..... | 74 | 69 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | ..... | 13 | 8 |
| Bronchitis | ..... | 13 | 5 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | ..... | 13 | 2 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | ..... | 2 | 4 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | ... | 3 | ... |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | .... | 1 | .. |
| Other Digestive Diseases | ..... | 3 | 7 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis | ..... | 6 | 7 |
| Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis | ... | ... | 2 |
| Premature Birth | .... | 4 | 1 |
| Other Maternal Causes... | ..... | .. | 1 |
| Congenital Causes, &c.... | ..... | 1 | 2 |
| Road Traffic Accidents... | ..... | ... | 2 |
| Suicide | .... | 2 | ... |
| Other Violent Causes | .... | 2 | 2 |
| All Other Causes | ..... | 12 | 12 |
| Live Births | Total | 281 | 299 |
| | Legitimate | 270 | 291 |
| | Illegitimate... | 11 | 8 |
| Still Births | ..... | 3 | 5 |
| <i>Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—</i> | | | |
| All Infants per 1000 Live Births | | 22 | |
| Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Live Births | | 21 | |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births | | 53 | |
| Resident Population..... | | 38,080 | |

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of Infants under the age of one year numbered 13; males 8, females 5. Six less than last year.

Eight of the Infant deaths in 1949 were due to congenital debility, malformation, and premature birth, representing 61% of the total Infant deaths, as against 89% in 1948.

The mortality rate calculated per 1,000 live births was 22, as compared with a rate of 34 in 1948 and 42 in 1947.

The Infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1949 was 32. For the 126 County Boroughs and great towns, including London, the rate was 37.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1949 of Infants at stated age periods:—

| Causes of Death. | Under 1 week | 1-2 weeks | 2-3 weeks | 3-4 weeks | 4 weeks— 3 months | 3-6 months | 6-9 months | 9-12 months | Total Deaths under 1 year |
|--|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth, &c... | 7 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Bronchitis and Broncho-Pneumonia ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Other causes ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | 4 |
| Totals ... | 7 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 13 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----|--|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|----|
| Net Live Births in the year | { | Legitimate 561 Illegitimate 19 | } | 580 | | Net Infant Deaths in the year | { | Legitimate 12 Illegitimate 1 | } | 13 |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----|--|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|----|

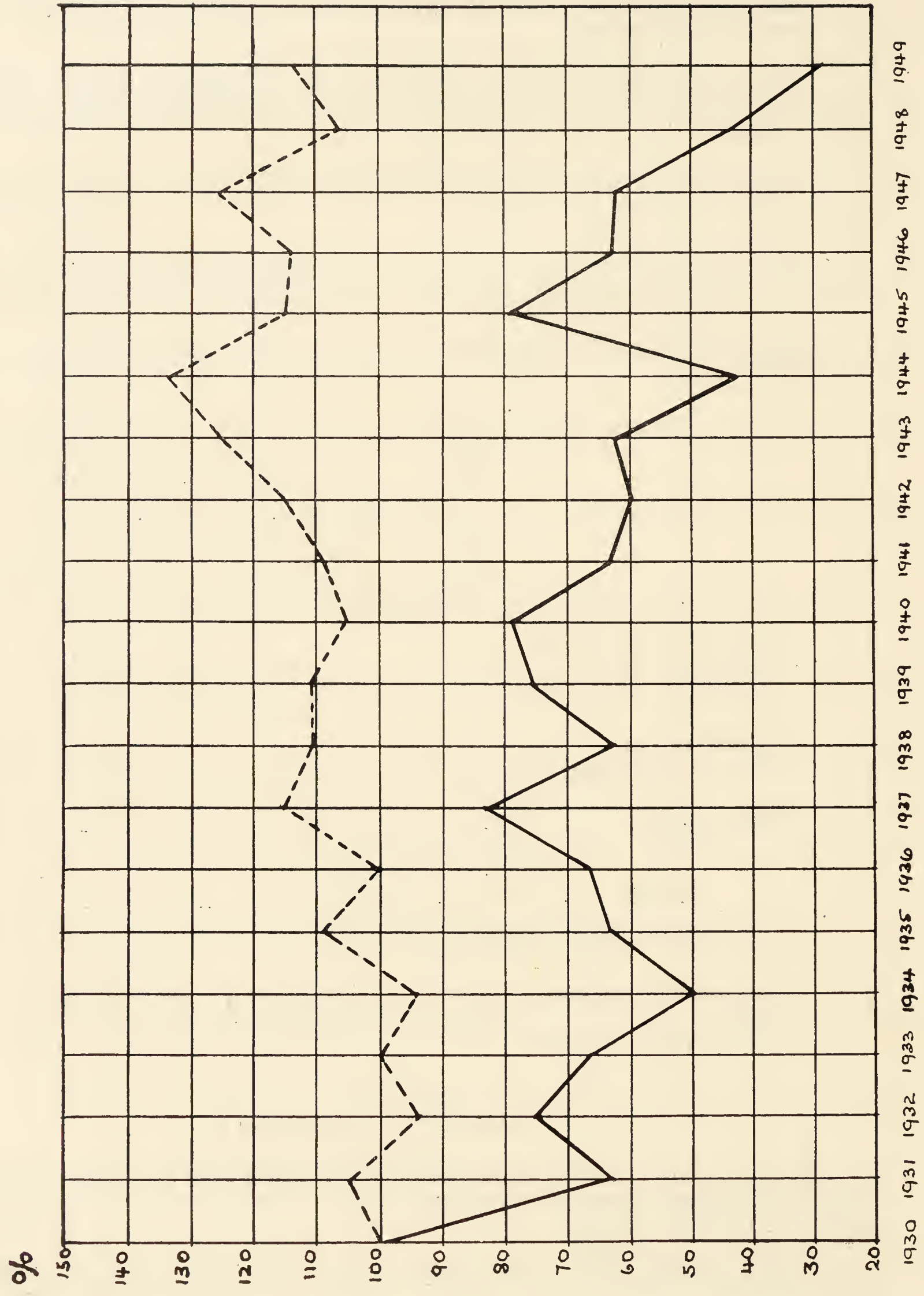
MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Under the head of Maternal Mortality, three deaths were recorded in the Rural District during the year 1949, corresponding to a mortality rate of 5.10 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

However, rates of this character, calculated for small areas, are sometimes rather fallacious, and one or two fatalities add very considerably to the Death Rate.

LIVE BIRTH RATE : INFANT MORTALITY RATE : _____

Graph showing the live birth rate and the infant mortality rate for each year since 1930, expressed as percentages of the respective rates for the year 1930.



Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious cases are removed to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston. The transport arrangements are most excellent and expeditious. Immediately a case is removed, the Sanitary Inspector carries out disinfection of the house. There is no loss of time.

SMALLPOX.

The area was not invaded by smallpox, and for this immunity one is grateful.

SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlet Fever was in evidence all through the year; 89 cases were reported against 46 in 1948. The disease was of a mild type, and complications were the exception. The incidence of the outbreaks centred in March, April and May, and at the latter end of the year, November and December. The distribution involved numerous townships, amongst these were Penwortham, Lea, Farington, Woodplumpton, Grimsargh and Goosnargh. Nine of the cases occurred amongst adults, which is unusual. There were no deaths. Sixty-nine out of the 89 notified cases went into Isolation Hospital. There is no difficulty in inducing parents to send their children into hospital, nor do adults object to this treatment.

DIPHThERIA.

For two years now, the population of the Rural area has been free from this disease.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Neither of these two diseases were as prevalent in the Rural Area as in the preceding year. This is the usual case. One year they reach epidemic proportions, and the next year the incidence is normal.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No case was notified.

BACILLARY DYSENTRY.

Thirteen notifications were received, all from Whittingham Mental Hospital.

The Tables on pages 16 and 17 detail the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1949, specifying the number in each Township.

| “ Notifiable ” Diseases. | | | Total Cases Notified. | | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths | Hospital | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|-----------------|---|--|------------------|
| | | | Total Cases at all ages. | Age Periods—Years. | | | | | | | | | | Total cases removed to hospital from the district | Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to district | |
| | | | | 0- | 1- | 3- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 25- | 45- | 65 & over | | | | Age un- known |
| Scarlet Fever... | ... | 89 | ... | 7 | 17 | 42 | 14 | 4 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69 | ... | |
| Measles | ... | 221 | 7 | 61 | 69 | 71 | 7 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Whooping Cough | ... | 43 | 2 | 15 | 16 | 7 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Pneumonia | ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 15 | 1 | 6 | |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| Dysentery | ... | 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | 5 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| Erysipelas | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Food Poisoning | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Totals ... | ... | 387 | 9 | 83 | 103 | 125 | 24 | 21 | 9 | 10 | 3 | ... | 16 | 75 | 7 | |

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1949, and for comparison the totals for the preceding four years are given:—

| Townships. | Scarlet Fever | | Enteric Fever | | Diphtheria | | Erysipelas | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Cases notified. | Cases removed. | Cases notified. | Cases removed. | Cases notified. | Cases removed. | Cases notified. | Cases removed. |
| Farington ... | 11 | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Longton ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Much Hoole ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Little Hoole ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hutton ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Penwortham ... | 24 | 18 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Samlesbury ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cuerdale ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lea ... | 23 | 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Goosnargh ... | 7 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Broughton ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Barton ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Haighton ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Woodplumpton ... | 9 | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| *Whittingham ... | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Ribchester ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dutton ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hothersall ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Grimsargh ... | 7 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1949 TOTAL ... | 89 | 69 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... |
| 1948 TOTAL ... | 46 | 40 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... |
| 1947 TOTAL ... | 32 | 19 | 1 | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 | ... |
| 1946 TOTAL ... | 76 | 64 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 13 | 1 | ... |
| 1945 TOTAL ... | 73 | 58 | ... | ... | 10 | 6 | 7 | ... |

* Includes notifications from the Whittingham Mental Hospital, but excludes under heading of "cases removed," cases isolated in Whittingham Mental Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Table below gives the number of new cases of the two forms of Tuberculosis, together with the deaths therefrom:—

| Age Periods. | NEW Cases. | | | | DEATHS. | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----|-----------------|-----|--------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Years | | | | | | | | |
| 0—1 .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 1—5 .. | ... | . | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| 5—10 ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10—15 .. | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15—20 ... | ... | ... | . | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 20—25 .. | ... | 1 | ... | . | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 25—35 ... | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... |
| 35—45 .. | 3 | 3 | ... | 2 | .. | ... | ... | ... |
| 45—55 ... | 6 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| 55—65 ... | 4 | . | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 65 and upwards | 3 | 3 | .. | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Totals ... | 21 | 11 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| | 32 | | 9 | | 8 | | 5 | |

The Scheme for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis in the administrative County is administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Manchester Regional Hospital Board respectively.

The County Council provide a number of dispensaries for the diagnosis of the disease, staffed by consultant Tuberculosis Officers and Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These dispensaries work in close association with the Sanatoria, and serve a valuable purpose in the main essence of supervision of patients after their discharge therefrom.

The Dispensary for patients residing in the Rural District is situated at 12, Walton's Parade, Preston.

Notification of Tuberculosis in the Preston Rural District is satisfactory and complete.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47.

Number of applications made during the year under sub-section 3—Nil.

Number of Orders made Nil.

Schools.

The total number of schools in the Rural area is 31.

All were inspected during the year for sanitary defects.

A number of defects were found to exist, and these were brought to the notice of the Divisional Education Authority.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

During the year, the law relating to Food & Drugs, and Milk & Dairies was amended by the coming into force of the following Acts and Regulations:—

- (a) The Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act, 1944.
- (b) The Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.
- (c) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.
- (d) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

(a) *The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944.*

This Act makes minor amendments to the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, none of which need interest us.

(b) *The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

These regulations re-enact with amendments the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-43. The principal changes are consequent upon the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, and of the Agricultural (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1949.

Three Central Government Departments acting jointly: the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Food, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; and two Local Government organs, the County Council and the Local Authority, are responsible for executing and enforcing the provisions of these regulations.

The main effect of the regulations as regards Local Authorities, is that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries now becomes responsible for the registration of dairy farms, and persons carrying on the trade of dairy farmer, and the execution and enforcement of the regulations on dairy farms (except in so far as they relate to diseases communicable to man).

The Local Authority is concerned only with the registration of milk distributors, and dairies (not being dairy farms), and the execution and enforcement of the regulations in regard to such persons and premises. In addition, however, under Regulations 18, 19 and 20 with regard to infection of milk by any disease communicable to man, or where the milk is suspected of being so infected, the Medical Officer of Health of the Local Authority is the responsible officer for carrying out an investigation.

Powers of Sampling Milk. These are not clearly defined, though Local Authorities still have the power to sample milk from milk distributors. In addition, it would appear that they can also carry out routine sampling of milk on dairy farms, for the detection of tubercle bacilli in raw milk which is not heat treated prior to delivery to the consumer, or where, during the course of an investigation of an infected milk by a disease communicable to man, the Medical Officer of Health deems it necessary to have samples taken for pathological examination in order to isolate a specific organism. Adverse reports have to be forwarded to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and where a notice is served under Regulations 18, 19 and 20, regarding infected milk, a copy of such notice has to be forwarded to the Area Milk Officer of the Ministry of Food.

In conclusion, there are a number of minor changes in the regulations relating to buildings, the cleansing of vessels and utensils, and the distribution of milk and its protection against contamination and infection with disease, and in particular, provision is made for modern practices in dairying, including the use of mechanical refrigeration for cooling, and the use of approved chemical agents for the cleansing of appliances. The important aspect of the regulations from a public health standpoint, is that, powers given by Article 18 of the Milk and Dairies Order for stopping a supply of milk, were limited to infection with notifiable disease, including dysentery. However, in the corresponding new Regulation 20, extended powers are given which apply to any disease communicable to man by consumption of milk.

(c) *The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasturised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949*

(d) *The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.*

These regulations re-enact with amendments the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 to 1948.

As before, three Central Government Departments acting jointly: the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Food, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; and two Local Government organs, the County Council and the Local Authority, are responsible for executing and enforcing the provisions of these Regulations.

The main effect of the regulations as regards the County Council and the Local Authority is that producers' licences are now granted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and not the County Council as before. The County Council, on the other hand, as Food and Drugs Authority, take over the responsibility from the Local Authority of issuing all licences authorising the use of a special designation in accordance with these regulations in relation to milk pasteurised or sterilised on the premises of the applicant.

The Local Authority are still responsible for the issuing of dealers' licences and supplementary licences in respect of the special designations "Tuberculin Tested," Accredited, Pasteurised and Sterilised.

The use of the special designation, "Accredited" is now limited to a period of five years, i.e., until the 1st October, 1954.

Bottling licences are abolished, and so are licence fees.

Minor amendments have been made to the provisions relating to the granting, refusal, suspension and revocation of dealers' licences, and the procedure for dealing with appeals. The period within which a person may appeal against the decision of the Licensing Authority has been extended from seven to 14 days. The Regulations state that the hearing of an appeal shall be in public.

Systematic attention is given to the food supply of the rural area.

Milk Supply. Much time and attention is devoted to this important subject with a view to providing and maintaining a pure and safe milk supply. There has been a gradual improvement in the methods of milk production—in the grooming and cleaning of cattle, in the cleanliness of shippens and dairies and in the milker's personal attire, etc. At a number of farms, works of improvement, including reconstruction of cowsheds, erection of modern dairies, floors concreted, additional window area provided and drainage improved, were undertaken during the year.

Visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year gave them the opportunity of impressing upon milk producers the necessity of a healthy environment, regular and careful grooming of cattle and a rigid standard of cleanliness in all stages of production and distribution.

A clean and safe milk supply is absolutely essential in the interests of the public health.

At the transfer of records on the 1st October, 1949, the total number of dairy farms on the register was 758. Of this total, 127 farms had been granted an Accredited licence and 82 farms a Tuberculin Tested licence by the Lancashire County Council. In addition, but at the 31st December, 1949, there were 121 milk distributors on the register, 18 of which were dairymen or milk distributors other than cowkeepers. The number of dairies on the register (not being dairy farms) was 8.

There were 376 inspections of farms and dairies during the year, and eight notices were served. Twenty-one of these inspections took place after the 30th September, 1949.

Milk Sampling.

Ninety-seven samples of milk were taken by your Sanitary Officers, and subjected to the minit test in the Office for the presence of dirt; 90 were satisfactory and seven unsatisfactory. The farms from which the unsatisfactory samples were taken were visited. Ninety-seven samples were taken for the Bacterial and Methylene Blue Reductase tests; 65 were found to be satisfactory, and 32 unsatisfactory. Twenty samples were taken in the district for the presence of tubercle bacilli; all were found to be negative. Two samples of pasteurised milk were taken, and subjected to the Phosphatase test, and both were found to be sufficiently heat treated.

In addition to the above, and prior to the 1st October, 1949, the County Public Health Department received eight notifications, in most cases from County Boroughs, that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in the Preston Rural District.

In accordance with Part IV of the Agricultural Act, 1937, the information was passed on to the divisional inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who arranged for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned. As a result of the investigations, four cows were reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-46.

Twenty-one dealer's licences were issued for Pasteurised milk, 11 for Tuberculin Tested milk, and one for Accredited milk. In addition, one supplementary licence was issued in respect of Pasteurised milk.

One licence was issued in respect of a Pasteurisation plant in the Rural area.

Two bottling licences were issued in respect of Tuberculin Tested milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Towards the end of the year, the Ministry of Food—Model Byelaws (Series 1) were received. They are designed to give Local Authorities greater control over the handling, wrapping, and delivery of food, and sale of food in the Open Air.

At the present time, the main legislation controlling the cleanliness of food for public sale, is contained in Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. This relates mainly to the condition of the actual premises.

The model bye-laws may be summarised as follows:—

1.—INTERPRETATION SECTION.

An attempt is made to define such words as “ cleanliness ” and “ reasonably necessary.” Unfortunately such terms create difficulties of enforcement. Prosecution of recalcitrant food traders is in many instances not without risk, and consequently there is a tendency to accept a lower standard of hygiene than would be the case if legal requirements were more specific.

The requirements of Para (1) Section 13, Food & Drugs Act, 1938, relating to the provision of wash basin and a supply of clean, hot and cold water, is a typical example; whereas one trader will comply by providing proper lavatory basins with running hot and cold water, a second trader will try and get by with an enamel basin and a kettle of water.

Article 2—requires that every food handler shall observe cleanliness in regard to himself and his clothing.

Article 3—is designed to prevent the spread of disease by food handlers, who are suffering from, or carriers of, a disease.

Article 4—makes all food handlers responsible for taking all steps as may be reasonably necessary to protect food from all sources of contamination, including contamination by other persons.

Comment.—It is hoped that this section will prevent food being exposed in a position where there is a risk of contamination by dogs, and also reduce the danger of contamination by customers. The protection of food during delivery is also mentioned, but meat (including bacon and ham) is excluded.

Article 5—prohibits the wrapping of food in unclean material, and also requires that there should be adequate light, either artificial or natural, in rooms where food is wrapped or handled.

Article 6—requires the provision of suitable receptacles for refuse, and their daily removal, and the keeping in good order and repair of counter slabs, fittings, apparatus, stoves, ranges, utensils, crockery and cutlery.

Article 7—makes it necessary to protect food sold in the open air from dust, dirt, mud, filth, dirty water, animals, flies, rodents, insects, and other sources of contamination.

Article 8—requires adequate lighting when food is exposed for sale in the open air, and prohibits refuse being deposited, except at a sufficient distance from any food as to prevent risk of contamination of such food.

Article 9—relates to general cleanliness of stalls, and requires that the trader must have his name and address legibly and conspicuously displayed on the stall or container.

The making of bye-laws lies within the discretion of the local authority, and if the Council decide that bye-laws shall be made, the question of additions will have to be considered.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS.

Ministry of Food Circular M.F. 12/49—dated 10th August, 1949—relating to the arrangement of lectures for Food Traders and their employees, lectures for the general public, exhibitions, formation of Clean Food Guilds, and formulation of Local Codes of Practice.

Periodical inspections of food premises in the Rural area, in particular catering establishments, revealed a fairly high standard of cleanliness in all respects, and this in many instances was improved following advice tendered by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Due to this high standard, and the fact that the Parishes of the Rural area are scattered, and in some instances have no centre, the opinion was formed that little would be gained by the arrangement of lectures, exhibitions, etc.

More can be attained by frequent inspections of these premises, and diplomatic approach fostering the spirit of voluntary co-operation, which already exists between the food traders and the Local Authority.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, Etc.

The one slaughter-house, and one knacker's yard in the area were inspected at frequent intervals during the year, and on the whole, the premises were well run.

SHOPS.

All shops and premises coming within the purview of Section 13, or registered under Section 14, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were inspected, and the general standard was fairly satisfactory.

The total number of shops on the register is 78, and during the year 172 inspections were carried out.

Sixty-three of the premises are registered for the manufacture and sale, or storage and sale, of ice cream. This figure includes 10 new registrations during the year.

Forty-four retailers sell pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

Hawker's Vehicles were inspected during the course of their rounds. They were generally satisfactory.

Milk Vans and Carts were inspected when samples of milk were taken, and with a few exceptions were in a clean and satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTERING.

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1,548 notices of intention to slaughter were received, all of which were in respect of permits granted by the Food Control Committee for home consumption and not for sale.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

| | Cattle, excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep & Lambs | Pigs |
|--|------------------------------|------|--------|------------------|------------------|
| Number killed (if known) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1548 |
| Number inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 on request |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis. | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tuberculosis only. | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40% |

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

| Total No. of Outbreaks. | Number of cases. | Number of deaths. | Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each. | Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---|
| ONE | Two cases ascer- tained within dis- trict. Five cases notified outside district. | NIL | DUCK EGGS used as ingredient infected with SALMONELLA TYPHI MURIUM. | ICE-CREAM. |

Report on Outbreak of Food Poisoning at Six Acre Lane, Longton, Near Preston.

1. **DATE OF OUTBREAK.** 11th September, 1949.

2. **FOOD CAUSING OUTBREAK.** ICE-CREAM.

Agent Causing Outbreak : DUCK EGGS (used as ingredient) infected with *SALMONELLA TYPHI MURIUM*.

3. **CASES FORMING OUTBREAK.** Which occurred from 11th September to 12th September, 1949 within the district—NIL.

Total Notified : Outside the district, 5 (Fulwood U.D., Nr. Preston); within the district, 2.

Total ascertained : Outside the district, NIL.
FATAL—NIL.

4. **CLINICAL FEATURES.**

Average interval ingestion to onset (hours) = 10 (cases within the district only).

Note.—In one case, the interval was extremely short (two hours).

Main Symptoms, etc. Vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and cramp.

Severity of Illness. One bed case (very ill). One mild case.

Duration of Illness. One case, 5 weeks. Other case, 2 weeks.

5. **RESULT OF LABORATORY INVESTIGATION.**

Cases. Two investigated within the district.

Salmonella Typhi Murium isolated in faeces from both cases, and positive results were obtained for a period of 10 weeks from date of onset.

Food Samples. Twelve duck eggs—no pathogens isolated.

Other. The District Sanitary Inspectors visited the premises concerned, and procured blood specimens and Cloaca swabs from a flock of 42 (Khaki Campbell) ducks. Approximately 75 per cent. of the blood samples indicated that the ducks were infected. As regards the Cloaca Swabs, *Salmonella Typhi Murium* was isolated in only one instance.

Food Handlers.—Nil.

6. **ORIGIN AND PREPARATION OF FOOD CAUSING ILLNESS.**

Three pints of Ice-Cream was made using goat's milk, sugar, cornflour and duck eggs.

Method of Manufacture. The milk was boiled in the evening, sugar and corn-flour being added as a thickener. No attempt was made to hasten the cooling, and whilst still warm four duck eggs were added, and the completed mix left to cool overnight. In the morning, an attempt was made to freeze the mix in a double jacketted container, using ice obtained the previous day.

The manufacturer was not registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, but was merely making the ice-cream for a family party on the following day.

7. PLACE AT WHICH FOOD CAUSING ILLNESS WAS CONSUMED.

Barcroft, Six Acre Lane, Longton, near Preston.

Estimated number of consumers at risk—7.

8. PROBABLE ORIGIN OF INFECTION OR CONTAMINATION OF FOOD.

Contributory Factors. Improper methods of Ice-cream manufacture.

9. ACTION TO PREVENT A FURTHER OUTBREAK.

Three dozen duck eggs per day were being sent to a local packing station. On receipt of the Pathologist's Report, the sale of further eggs was stopped, and in consequence of this, the ducks were slaughtered. Intestines and ovaries were removed, and the ducks allowed to go for human consumption.

CONDEMNATION OF FOOD UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption was four tons 6 cwts. 2 qrs. 7 lbs. 12 ozs. A detailed list is contained in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department, which is the authority responsible for the administration of the Act in this respect. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results:—

A total of 304 samples was obtained; 231 were of milk and the 73 others comprised:—

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8 Custard Powder. | 2 Semolina. |
| 5 Mustard Compound. | 3 Rice. |
| 1 Flavouring Essence (almond) | 1 Flavouring Essence (vanilla). |
| 3 Cheese. | 2 Bacon. |
| 1 Jelly. | 1 Suet. |
| 1 Fruit (canned). | 3 Butter. |
| 3 Honey. | 1 Beef Sausage. |
| 1 Parrish's Chemical Food. | 1 Dried Herbs (parsley). |
| 1 Dried Herbs (thyme). | 1 Dried Herbs (sage). |

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Zinc Ointment. | 1 Arrowroot. |
| 1 Dried Herbs (mixed). | 1 Vinegar, non-brewed. |
| 2 Cooking Fat (compound). | 3 Tea. |
| 1 Oatmeal. | 2 Jam. |
| 1 Cocoa. | 1 Ground Cinnamon. |
| 1 Ground Mixed Spice. | 3 Ice Cream. |
| 1 Pickles. | 2 Mixed Pickles. |
| 1 Piccalilli. | 4 Whisky. |
| 2 Rum. | 1 Cornflour. |
| 1 Coffee. | 2 Chocolate. |
| 1 Mixed Fancy Cakes. | |

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

| Sample. | Result of Analysis. | Action taken. |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 1 formal milk | deficient 6.6% fat | Vendor notified. |
| 1 suet | consisted of shredded suet coated with wheat flour | Vendor notified. |
| 1 beef sausage | meat content 42.5% deficient 15.0% of the minimum percentage of meat | Vendor cautioned. |
| 1 formal milk | Deficient 2.3% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 4.3% extraneous water. | Same vendor. |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 4.7% solids-not-fat. Freezing points indicated the presence of 3.8% extraneous water. | Vendor cautioned. |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 10.0% fat. | Same vendor. |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 23.0% fat. | Formal sample obtained |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 5.3% solids-not-fat Freezing point indicated presence of 1.6% extraneous water. | Same vendor. |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 7.6% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 6.1% extraneous water. | Formal samples obtained. |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 5.0 % fat. | Vendor notified. |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 20.0% fat. | |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 2.9% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.0% extraneous water. | Same vendor. |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 1.7% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.5% extraneous water. | Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained |
| 1 Dried Herbs (mixed). | No declaration of weight or ingredients. | Packers communicated with |
| 1 Zinc Ointment | Deficient 2.0% zinc oxide against declaration. | Packers communicated with |

| Sample | Result of Analysis | Action Taken |
|------------------|--|---|
| 1 formal milk. | Freezing point indicated the presence of 3.8% of extraneous water. | Same vendor. Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained. |
| 1 formal milk. | Freezing point indicated the presence of 4.6% extraneous water. | |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 6.6% fat. Low in solids-not-fat. | Same vendor. |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 10.0% fat. Low in solids-not-fat. | Vendor notified. |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 10.0% fat. | Vendor notified. |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 16.0% fat. Low in solids-not-fat. | Farmer notified. |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 3.3% fat. | |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 6.6% fat. Low in solids-not-fat. | Same vendor. |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 13.0% fat. Low in solids-not-fat | |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 25.0% fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.1% extraneous water. | Formal samples obtained |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 3.3% fat. Low in solids-not-fat. | Vendor notified. |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 6.6% fat. Low in solids-not-fat. | Same vendor. |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 1.6% fat. Slightly low in solids-not-fat. | Vendor notified. |
| 1 informal milk. | Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.6% of extraneous water. | Same vendor. |
| 1 informal milk. | Freezing point indicated the presence of 2.5% of extraneous water. | Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained |
| 1 informal milk. | Deficient 3.3% fat. | Vendor notified. |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 3.5% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 4.5% extraneous water. | Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 6.6% fat. | Same vendor. |
| 1 formal milk. | Deficient 8.3% fat. | Vendor notified. |

Water Supplies.

The four major sources of water distribution in this rural area are:—

- a. The Preston Corporation.
- b. The Fulwood Urban District Council.
- c. The Fylde Water Board.
- d. The Manchester Corporation (Thirlmere).

These supplies are controlled by both chemical and bacteriological tests and analyses are periodically made. Results of analyses are set out hereafter.

The townships south of the Ribble are supplied by the Preston Corporation and Manchester Corporation. North Ribble townships receive Fylde, Fulwood and Preston water.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the water situation in the several Townships. Where houses are not receiving a laid-on supply, the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains:—

| Parish | From Public Mains | | | | From Private Supplies, <i>e.g.</i> wells, springs, etc. | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| | Direct to houses | | By means of standpipe | | No. of dwelling houses | No. of population |
| | No. of dwelling houses | No. of population | No. of dwelling houses | No. of population | | |
| Barton ... | 316 | 1036 | ... | ... | 18 | 61 |
| Broughton ... | 154 | 503 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cuerdale ... | 9 | 38 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dutton ... | 10 | 30 | ... | ... | 58 | 187 |
| Farington ... | 1262 | 3876 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Goosnargh ... | 220 | 634 | ... | ... | 112 | 466 |
| Grimsargh ... | 253 | 801 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Haighton ... | 61 | 200 | ... | ... | 4 | 14 |
| Hothersall ... | 33 | 98 | ... | ... | 4 | 12 |
| Hutton ... | 394 | 1346 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lea ... | 1523 | 4562 | ... | ... | 12 | 36 |
| Little Hoole ... | 220 | 645 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Longton ... | 1139 | 3510 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Much Hoole ... | 222 | 628 | ... | ... | 2 | 6 |
| Penwortham ... | 3461 | 10592 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ribchester ... | 419 | 1319 | ... | ... | 37 | 118 |
| Samlesbury ... | 331 | 926 | ... | ... | 17 | 60 |
| Whittingham... | 342 | 4550 | ... | ... | 44 | 132 |
| Woodplumpton | 450 | 1528 | ... | ... | 46 | 166 |
| TOTAL Whole District | 10819 | 36822 | ... | ... | 354 | 1258 |

Submitted below is a table shewing water consumption per head of population over the past two years in the different supply areas.

| Area of Supply | | | | Sept. 1947 | March 1948 | Sept. 1948 | March 1949 | Sept. 1949 |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | | | <i>Galls.</i> | <i>Galls.</i> | <i>Galls.</i> | <i>Galls.</i> | <i>Galls.</i> |
| Longton & Penwortham | ... | ... | ... | 28.18 | 29.60 | 27.44 | 27.04 | 27.02 |
| Farington | ... | ... | ... | 25.31 | 27.42 | 26.71 | 28.44 | 26.43 |
| Lea | ... | ... | ... | 32.11 | 33.09 | 36.27 | 27.91 | 27.79 |
| Samlesbury | ... | ... | ... | 33.14 | 32.86 | 36.75 | 34.64 | 46.27 |
| Ribchester & Hothersall | ... | ... | ... | 22.51 | 15.40 | 17.04 | 19.92 | 23.27 |

The number of dwelling houses with piped supplies direct from mains is now 10,819.

The approximate number of dwelling houses without a piped supply direct from mains is 354.

Parts of the Townships of Goosnargh and Dutton are without a piped supply, but steps are being taken to remedy this.

Population supplied from public water main direct to houses is approximately 36,822, of a population of 38,080.

Analyses of Water Supplies.

I have been supplied with the following results of examinations of water supplies from the Fylde Water Board, Preston Corporation, Manchester Corporation and Fulwood Urban District Council.

FYLDE WATER.

Summary of Bacteriological examinations of Filtered Water before Chloramination from Hodder Works.

| Date Sample taken. | pH value of Sample. | Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar. | | Probable No. of coli-aerogenes per 100 m.l. of water (McCrary) |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| | | <i>No. of colonies per m.l. of water :</i> | | |
| | | In 2 days at 37°C. | In 3 days at 22°C. | |
| 18th January, 1949 | 8.55 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| 9th February, 1949 | 8.45 | 1 say | 2 | 0 |
| 5th April, 1949 | 8.45 | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| 11th May, 1949 | 8.55 | 0 | 12 | 1 |
| 13th May, 1949 | — | — | — | 0 |
| 21st June, 1949 | 8.8 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| 6th August, 1949 | 8.90 | 4 | 49 | 2 |
| 7th September, 1949 | 8.80 | 1 | 90 | 0 |
| 26th September, 1949 | 9.10 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 11th November, 1949 | 7.0 | 5 | 14 | 1 |
| 20th December, 1949 | 9.15 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

The following reports are relative to (a) Raw water, (b) Water going into supply where treatment is installed:—

Laboratory, Stocks Reservoir, Slaidburn.

Results of Bacteriological Analysis.

Water Stocks—Raw.
Where sample taken Tap—Filter House.
Date sample taken ... 23rd June, 1947.
Sample taken by ... W. B. Ramsay.
Date test applied ... 23rd June, 1947.
pH value of sample ... 6.95.

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar. | No. of colonies per m.l. of water. |
| in 3 days at 22° C. | 44. |
| in 2 days at 37° C. | 6. |
| Probable number of coli-aerogenes per 100 m.l. of water (McCrary's tables) | 14. |

2nd Sample.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Water | Stocks—Filtered. |
| Where sample taken | P.H. Flow Channel. |
| Date sample taken ... | 23rd June, 1947. |
| Sample taken by ... | W. B. Ramsay. |
| Date test applied ... | 23rd June, 1947. |
| pH value of sample ... | 8.6. |

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar. | No. of colonies per m.l. of water. |
| in 3 days at 22° C. | 36. |
| in 2 days at 37° C. | 1. |
| Probable number of coli-aerogenes per 100 m.l. of water (McCrary's tables) | 0. |

Remarks:—Before chloramination.

Result of Chemical Analysis of Raw and Filtered Waters.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION,
WATERWORKS LABORATORY.

Source: Stocks Filtration Plant, Fylde Water Board.

| <i>Lab. No.</i> | <i>Date taken</i> | <i>Source</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1466 | 24/3/47 | Raw Water, Stocks. |
| 1467 | 24/3/47 | Filtered Water, Stocks. |

Remarks:

1466. Faintly hazy light-brown coloured water with a few particles of sediment.
1467. Clear water free from sediment.

| <i>Lab. No.</i> | | 1466 | 1467 |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|------|
| pH value | | 6.8 | 7.4 |
| <i>Analysis</i> | | <i>Parts per Million</i> | |
| Total solids dried at: | | | |
| 100° C. | | 66.8 | 76.8 |
| 180° C. | | 64.8 | 71.6 |
| Total Calcium as Ca | | 11.0 | 15.4 |
| Nitrates as N ² | | 0.12 | 0.09 |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| Phosphates as P ... | ... | ... | Nil. | Nil. |
| Silica as SiO ₂ ... | ... | ... | 4.0 | 3.5 |
| Chlorides as Cl ₂ ... | ... | ... | 9.5 | 9.5 |
| Free acidity as CO ₂ ... | ... | ... | 5.0 | 1.5 |
| Free and Saline Ammonia as NH ₃ ... | ... | ... | 0.026 | 0.024 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia as NH ₃ ... | ... | ... | 0.108 | 0.044 |
| Oxygen absorbed test: | | | | |
| 4 hours at 27° C. | ... | ... | 3.34 | 0.80 |
| Hardness as CaCO ₃ : | | | | |
| Temporary hardness | ... | ... | Nil. | Nil. |
| Permanent hardness | ... | ... | 30 | 40 |
| Total hardness | ... | ... | 30 | 40 |

MANCHESTER WATER.

RAW WATER.

Results of typical Chemical Analyses.

THIRLMERE AND HAWESWATER LAKES.

The lake waters are subject only to slight variations and the following are typical analyses.

| | | | <i>Thirlmere.</i> | <i>Haweswater.</i> |
|---|-----|-----|---------------------------|--------------------|
| pH value | ... | ... | 6.4 | 7.1 |
| Colour p.p.m. platinum | ... | ... | 11 | 13 |
| Turbidity p.p.m. silica | ... | ... | 0.5 | 4.2 |
| | | | <i>Parts per million.</i> | |
| Total solids dried at 180° C. | ... | ... | 30.8 | 32.4 |
| Free acidity as CO ₂ | ... | ... | 2.5 | 2.0 |
| Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ | ... | ... | 9.6 | 13.0 |
| Total hardness as CaCO ₃ | ... | ... | 16.3 | 18.8 |
| Chlorides as Cl ₂ | ... | ... | 7.0 | 7.2 |
| Nitrates as N ₂ | ... | ... | 0.17 | 0.14 |
| Nitrates as N ₂ | ... | ... | Nil. | Nil. |
| Ammoniacal nitrogen, N ₂ | ... | ... | 0.015 | 0.010 |
| Albuminoid nitrogen, N ₂ | ... | ... | 0.028 | 0.042 |
| Oxygen absorbed test, 4 hours at 27° C. | | | 0.78 | 0.70 |
| Silica as SiO ₂ | ... | ... | 2.0 | 1.5 |
| Iron as Fe | ... | ... | 0.10 | 0.13 |
| Manganese as Mn | ... | ... | 0.06 | trace |

Mixed Treated Supplies.

| Date 1949. | | Feb. 14 | July 11 | Dec. 5 |
|-------------------------|-----|---------|---------|--------|
| Lab. No. | | 2089 | 2235 | 2539 |
| pH value | ... | 6.90 | 7.30 | 6.90 |
| Colour p.p.m. platinum | ... | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Turbidity p.p.m. silica | ... | 0.05 | 0.8 | 1.5 |
| Odour—Cold | ... | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |
| Hot | ... | Nil. | faint | Nil. |
| | | | earthy | |
| Taste—Cold or hot | ... | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |

| <i>Analyses</i> | | | <i>Parts per million.</i> | | |
|---|-----|----------------|---------------------------|-------|--|
| Total solids dried at 180° C. ... | ... | 38.8 | 36.8 | 43.6 | |
| Free acidity as CO ₂ ... | ... | 2.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | |
| Total alkalinity as CaCO ₃ ... | ... | 12.0 | 12.0 | 12.0 | |
| Total hardness as CaCO ₃ ... | ... | 22.5 | 20 | 24 | |
| Chloride as Cl ² ... | ... | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.5 | |
| Nitrates as N ₂ ... | ... | 0.42 | 0.35 | 0.49 | |
| Nitrites as N ₂ ... | ... | faint trace | faint trace | Nil. | |
| Ammoniacal nitrogen, N ₂ ... | ... | 0.005 | 0.005 | Nil. | |
| Albuminoid nitrogen, N ₂ ... | ... | 0.031 | 0.018 | 0.031 | |
| Oxygen absorbed test, | | | | | |
| 4 hours at 27° C. ... | ... | 0.87 | 0.68 | 0.49 | |
| Silica as SiO ₂ ... | ... | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.5 | |
| Iron as Fe ... | ... | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.23 | |
| Manganese as Mn. ... | ... | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | |

Note.—Traces of nitrites, when present, are derived from the chloramine sterilising treatment.

BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORT.

Thirlmere and Haweswater Lakes and Thirlmere Aqueduct. (Mixed Waters).

Bacteriological samples from the Lakes were not taken during 1949.

The samples from the Aqueduct, collected at Babylon Lane, Adlington, have given the following results:

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Total number of samples collected ... | ... | 18 |
| Samples free from coliform bacteria ... | ... | 13 |

The coliform counts in detail were as follows:—

| <i>Faecal Coli Count.</i> | | <i>Non-Faecal Coli Count.</i> | | <i>Total Coli</i> | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| No. per 100 mls. | No. of samples. | No. per 100 mls. | No. of samples. | No. per 100 mls. | No. of samples. |
| 0 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 13 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | — | — | 12 | 1 |
| | — | | 18 | | — |
| | 18 | | — | | 18 |
| | — | | | | — |

PRESTON WATER.

Bacteriological examination of water supply taken on the 19th September, 1949, and examined at the Preston Waterworks Laboratory, Longridge.

Time, 9-30 a.m.

Temperature of water at time of collection, 58° F.

pH value, 7.1.

Colour, 10 Hazen.

Organisms growing on Yeastrel Agar, per 1 M.L. of Water.

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Cultivated for 3 days at 20—22° C. ... | ... | 94 |
|--|-----|----|

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---|
| Cultivated for 2 days at 37° C. ... | ... | 3 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---|

Coli-Aerogenes Bacteria.

Found in 0 m.l.

Not found in 100 m.l.

McCrary.

No. per 100 m.l., 0.

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| Sub-cultured to 44° C.: Positive faecal B. Coli ... | ... | 0 |
|---|-----|---|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Organisms of the I.A.C. Group | | 0 |
|-------------------------------|--|---|

Report.—The results are satisfactory.

Date:—23rd September, 1949.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS of water supply taken on the 19th September, 1949, and examined at the Preston Waterworks Laboratory, Longridge.

Time ... 9-30 a.m.

pH ... 7.1

Results expressed in parts per 100,000

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------------|-------|-----|--------|
| Total solid matter in solution ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8.0 |
| Oxygen required to oxydise ... | ... | { | in 15 mins. | 0.059 | | |
| | | | in 3 hours | 0.104 | | |
| Ammonia—Free and Saline ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.0034 |
| Ammonia—Albuminoid ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.010 |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.06 |
| Nitrogen as Nitrites ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
| Chlorides ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.2 |
| Temporary Hardness ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.2° |
| Permanent Hardness ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.8° |
| Total Hardness ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.0° |
| Physical Properties ... Colour 10 Hazen, Odourless. | | | | | | |

REPORT: The results are satisfactory.

Date:—28th September, 1949.

FULWOOD WATER.

Bacteriological Analysis.

a. *Number of Examinations made.*

Raw Water (i.e., in the reservoirs after pre-chloramination)

Bacteriological ... 4.

Results: Probable number of " B " Coli for 100 c.c.

4 samples: Nil.

b. *Water going into supply after storage and post-chloramination.*

Bacteriological ... 14.

Results: Probable number of " B " Coli in 100 c.c.

12 samples: Nil.

2 samples, 1 (such borderline quality is not to be regarded as serious).

Chemical Analysis (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

| | | | | | Raw Water | | Treated Water |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|-----|------------------|
| Total solids dried at 105°C | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10.4 | ... | 11.2 |
| Total Hardness | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.1 | ... | 4.5 |
| Temporary Hardness | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.0 | ... | 1.8 |
| Permanent Hardness | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.1 | ... | 2.7 |
| Combined Chlorine | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.5 | ... | 1.6 |
| Toxic Metals | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. | ... | Nil. |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.014 | ... | 0.004 |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.011 | ... | 0.015 |
| Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites) | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. | ... | Nil. |
| Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.05 | ... | 0.05 |
| Oxygen Absorbed in 3 hrs. at 26.7°C | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.226 | ... | 0.241 |

Both samples, although clear, possessed a slight yellowish cast, each with a Hazen number of 30. Both were free from odour and particulate solids. Again, in each case the pH was the same, viz., 6.6

The yields of albuminoid nitrogen and oxygen-absorptive capacity are typical of the supply, governed as they are by a sensible uptake of fermentable matter of vegetable origin. The much higher ammoniacal nitrogen figure in the raw water sample is no doubt due to the amino group of the chloramine introduced in the pre-sterilisation of the supply. There is nothing in the analysis to which objection could be taken, provided always that the bacteriological response is satisfactory.

Housing

One thousand and forty-four applicants for houses still remain on the Council's list at the 31st December, 1949. This shows a marked increase over the previous year's figure of 773, despite the fact that 181 families were re-housed during the year (making a total of 395 since the end of hostilities).

The Housing Waiting List may be categorised as follows:—

| | | Within the area | | Total |
|------------|---|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| | | Employed. | Not employed. | |
| a. | Normal residents (prior to and since the war) ... | 171 | 324 | 495 |
| b. | Resident since the war only ... | 80 | 184 | 264 |
| c. | Resident prior to war only ... | 31 | 90 | 121 |
| d. | Resident for short period, but not now resident ... | 5 | 25 | 30 |
| e. | Have never resided ... | 109 | 25 | 134 |
| Totals ... | | 396 | 648 | 1044 |

It should be stressed that Local Authorities waiting lists for houses are practically useless for assessing need, and consequently no attempt has been made to categorise the list in this respect. They may, to a small degree, indicate the desire for a new, better or bigger house, but give no real measurement of need. There are many families who, one might say, are in need of a separate dwelling, but they do not desire one, and consequently their name does not appear on the waiting list. The reasons for this are no doubt many and varied. Sometimes, it may be a desire to live with aged parents, in order to look after them, or, alternatively, that it is a more economical proposition to share a house with another family.

As forecast last year, substantial progress was made during 1949, and at the end of the year, the Council's 2nd year programme was almost complete. In addition, building operations commenced on the two principal schemes in the 3rd year programme. The Officers chiefly concerned with the Council's drive in this field have, by their strenuous efforts, earned the gratitude of those acutely aware of the importance of a properly housed family on environmental public health.

Eighty-four Airey Rural houses have been scheduled for erection in the various parishes in the Rural area for housing agricultural workers. Forty-two houses have been completed, and twenty-eight were under construction at the year end.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Nineteen houses have been demolished since 1939, thirteen formally and six informally. Undertakings have been accepted in the case of fifteen houses; in nine instances that the premises would not again be used for human habitation, and in six instances, the premises to be re-constructed. Two houses were dealt with voluntarily by the owners.

Twenty-nine houses are officially scheduled for clearance, but are deferred until the time is more opportune to re-house the tenants.

The following tables show (1) schemes completed, (2) schemes in progress, and (3) schemes contemplated:—

(1)

| Scheme | No. of houses. |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Penwortham and Farington | 22 |
| Woodplumpton | 16 |
| Lea | 40 |
| Woodville Street, Farington | 12 |
| School Street, Farington | 10 |
| Penwortham | 52 |
| Barton | 40 |
| Samlesbury | 16 |
| Grimsargh | 22 |
| Woodplumpton | 8 |
| Little Hoole | 24 |
| Much Hoole | 24 |
| Goosnargh | 18 |
| Airey Rural Houses | 8 |
| Total | 312 |

(2)

| Scheme. | Completed. | Under Houses Construction | Not Yet started. |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Longton | 27 | 2 | — |
| Goosnargh | 4 | 6 | — |
| Ribchester | 18 | 4 | — |
| Sycamore Farm, Penwortham | — | 48 | 32 |
| New Longton | — | 4 | 32 |
| Airey Rural Houses | 34 | 28 | 14 |
| Totals | 83 | 92 | 78 |

(3)

| Scheme. | No. of houses |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Sycamore Farm, Penwortham | 152 |
| Mayfield Avenue, Ingol | 28 |
| Coote Lane, Farington | 16 |
| Total | 196 |

OTHER HOUSING.

In addition to Council houses, houses have been constructed by the Lancashire County Council, Ministry of Works, Kingsway Housing Association (formed by The English Electric Co.) and Private Builders.

As far as other housing is concerned, the position at the 31st December, 1949, was as follows:—

| Constructed by | Completed. | No. of houses | |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | Under Construction. | Not yet Started. |
| Lancashire County Council ... | 34 | — | — |
| Ministry of Works ... | 198 | 10 | — |
| Kingsway Housing Association ... | 174 | — | — |
| Private Builders ... | 89 | 21 | 4 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals — | 495 | 31 | 4 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—56.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—2.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners—2.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—133.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners—133.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—4.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—4.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made—Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit—Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Operative day—30th July, 1949.

The following are brief notes on the provisions of the Act, which are of special interest:—

- (1) The term “ working classes ” is abolished, so that local authorities will be able, in the planning and execution of their housing programme, to meet the varied needs of the community, and to ensure a proper balance in the development of their new estates.
- (2) Certain demolition orders can be quashed on application by the local authority to the County Court, i.e., where a house (a) is subject to a demolition order which became operative prior to the 1st January, 1946, but (b) as a result of works carried out since the demolition order became operative, is fit for human habitation. If on a written request made by the owner of such a house before the 30th July, 1950, the local authority is satisfied that the house is fit, they may apply to the County Court for an order quashing the demolition order. This provision should only be applied to a house which has been put in a good state of repair, and is in fact a good and comfortable house.

Demolition orders can be determined and Closing orders made in lieu as respects houses of special architectural or historic interest.

- (3) Section 7 empowers local authorities to provide, in connection with the provision of housing accommodation, facilities for obtaining meals and refreshments, facilities for doing laundry, and laundry services. Section 8 empowers local authorities to sell, or to supply under a hire purchase agreement, furniture to the occupants of their houses, and for that purpose to buy furniture.
- (4) Section 10 restores to local authorities the power to make bye-laws for regulating the number of persons in houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family.
- (5) Part II. of the Act, by provision of financial assistance, makes possible the improvement of existing houses on terms reasonable for the tenant, and for the owner, whether a local authority or a private person. In this respect, where further works are carried out to an “ improved ” dwelling, without additional improvement grant, the local authority are empowered by Section 29 to give a direction increasing the maximum amount of the rent payable by an annual amount not exceeding 8 per cent. of the cost of executing the further works.

Sewage Disposal.

There are outfall works in five townships, viz.: Farington, Penwortham, Ribchester, Grimsargh and Broughton. The outfall works are maintained in a satisfactory manner. In other parishes a septic tank is provided for each house, or alternatively a small sewage purification plant is installed for a group of houses.

The schemes for Grimsargh, Lea, Longton, Hutton, Much Hoole and Little Hoole, are in course of preparation.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the sewage situation in the several parishes.

| Parish | Connected to Public Sewer | | Septic Tank, etc. | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | No. of Dwelling houses | No. of Population | No. of Dwelling houses | No. of Population |
| Barton ... | 40 | 155 | 294 | 942 |
| Broughton ... | 50 | 175 | 104 | 328 |
| Cuerdale ... | ... | ... | 9 | 38 |
| Dutton ... | ... | ... | 68 | 217 |
| Farington ... | 992 | 3066 | 270 | 810 |
| Goosnargh ... | ... | ... | 332 | 1100 |
| Grimsargh ... | 202 | 623 | 51 | 178 |
| Haighton ... | ... | ... | 65 | 214 |
| Hothersall ... | ... | ... | 37 | 110 |
| Hutton ... | ... | ... | 394 | 1346 |
| Lea ... | ... | ... | 1535 | 4598 |
| Little Hoole ... | ... | ... | 220 | 645 |
| Longton ... | ... | ... | 1139 | 3510 |
| Much Hoole ... | ... | ... | 224 | 634 |
| Penwortham ... | 3455 | 10571 | 6 | 21 |
| Ribchester ... | 291 | 942 | 165 | 495 |
| Samlesbury ... | 20 | 60 | 328 | 926 |
| Whittingham ... | ... | .. | 386 | 4682 |
| Woodplumpton | ... | ... | 496 | 1694 |
| TOTAL Whole District | 5050 | 15592 | 6123 | 22488 |

Factories Act, 1937.

Annual Report of the Medical officer of Health in respect of the Year 1949, for the Rural District of Preston in the County of Lancaster.

A new register is in the process of being compiled, and the survey shows numerous new factories, chiefly those relating to Motor Car Repairs. Most of the factories are of a small character, but there are in the Rural Area, 4 Cotton Mills, 2 Paper Mills, and 2 small Iron Foundries.

Defects found to exist were principally in connection with Sanitary conveniences. The standard of cleanliness was, on the whole, high, and working conditions generally were good.

As regards the remedying of the defects, verbal notice of existence, and advice tendered, resulted in the necessary work being carried out. The informal approach creates a feeling of cordiality and a desire to co-operate.

I submit below Statement giving the number of inspections carried out, and defects found and remedied during the year:—

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I. of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

| Premises (1) | Number on Register (2) | Number of | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Inspections (3) | Written notices (4) | Occupiers prosecuted (5) |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... | 29 | 30 | 1 | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... | 108 | 66 | 3 | — |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ... | 10 | 4 | — | — |
| TOTAL ... | 147 | 100 | 4 | — |

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| Particulars (1) | No. of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6) |
|---|--|-----------------|---|----|--|
| | Found (2) | Remedied (3) | Referred To H.M. Inspector (4) By H.M. Inspector (5) | | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1)... | 4 | 4 | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 9 | 9 | — | 7 | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 5 | 5 | — | 4 | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| TOTAL ... | 20 | 20 | — | 11 | — |

Part VIII.—Sections 110 and 111.

Number of Outworkers in August List required by section 110 (1) (c) . 1 (Embroidery)

J. WALKER,

August, 1950.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

During the year, the law relating to Housing, Food and Drugs, and Milk and Dairies was amended by the coming into force of the following Acts and Regulations:—

- (a) Housing Act, 1949.
- (b) The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944.
- (c) The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
- (d) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.
- (e) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The principal changes in the law are dealt with in the Medical Officer of Health's Report, and there is no need for me to reiterate. However, I should just like to say that the main object of the amendments to the Housing Act, 1936, is to enable Local Authorities themselves to provide the various forms of housing accommodation which are required for the development of balanced communities. The term "working classes" is now abolished.

Towards the end of the year, the Ministry of Food—Model Bye-laws (Series 1) were received, and they are designed to give Local Authorities greater control over the handling, wrapping, and delivery of food, and sale of food in the open air. The question of adoption had not been decided at the end of the year, though the matter was under consideration by a special committee.

An improvement in the labour situation resulted in an extension of certain essential health services. In particular, in the field of Public Cleansing, a weekly collection of dry refuse was instituted in certain urbanised parishes, whilst new areas were brought into the scheme for regular cleansing.

It will be seen from the Report that the work of the department has been considerable in every aspect of public health, except under Part II of the Housing Act, 1936. However, one bright feature is that most of the condemned cottages in the Parish of Woodplumpton have now been dealt with. Most of these cottages were scheduled for demolition some considerable time ago.

During the year, the Council accepted delegation from the Lancashire County Council of all the inspectorial duties required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934. Previously, the District Council had only been responsible for those duties under Section 10.

Rodent Control has been continued in accordance with the recommendations of the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and is dealt with in a separate report.

Finally, my thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence, and to the Members of the Staff for their willing co-operation at all times.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the department during the year:—

SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Inspections of dwelling houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 201 |
| Re-inspections of dwelling houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 379 |
| Verminous premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Infectious disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 123 |
| Cowsheds, dairies, milkshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 376 |
| Food and food premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 187 |
| Factories and bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 |
| Milk sampling | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 |
| Ice cream premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 84 |
| Hotels | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Slaughterhouses, Knacker's Yard | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Smoke Observations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Caravans | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Water Supply | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 136 |
| Closet Conversions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Insanitary Drainage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 127 |
| Fouled Watercourses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67 |
| Middens | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Anthrax | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Swine Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 962 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> 2970 |

NOTICES.

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Informal | 243 |
| Formal | 25 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disinfection has been carried out in the following cases of infectious disease:—

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Scarlet Fever | 77 |
| Tuberculosis Removals | 14 |
| Tuberculosis Deaths | 2 |
| Cancer Deaths | 2 |
| Erysipelas | 2 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 3 |

In addition, disinfection has been carried out in one instance of verminous premises, and three instances on request after death.

To conclude, 14 other visits have been made relating to Infectious Disease.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The figures submitted for Privy middens and Pail closets have been adjusted in order to allow for private conversions over a number of years, and consequently to present a more accurate picture of dry conservancy in the Rural area.

At the end of 1949, the following position existed in the Rural District as regards sanitary conveniences:—

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| No. of Fresh Water Closets | 8787 |
| No. of Waste Water Closets | 244 |
| No. of Pail Closets | 1549 |
| No. of Privy Middens | 593 |
| No. of Movable Ashbins | 10261 |

The old bog closets and the pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the small scattered areas. The remaining ashpit in Farington has been abolished.

The following conversions took place, and new sanitary accommodation was provided during 1949:—

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. of Pails converted into W.C.'s | 20 |
| No. of New W.C.'s provided | 418 |
| No. of Waste Water Closets converted into W.C.'s | 4 |
| No. of Privy Closets converted into W.C.'s | 1 |
| No. of Ashpits abolished | 1 |
| No. of Privies converted to Pails | 1 |
| No. of New Pails provided | 1 |

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Defective Downspouts | 2 |
| Dampness | 49 |
| Defective Ceilings | 20 |
| Defective Closet Pails | 5 |
| Defective Doors | 9 |
| Defective Floors | 32 |
| Defective Gutters | 28 |
| Defective Paving | 6 |
| Defective Roofs | 33 |
| Defective Pointing | 4 |
| Defective Sink Waste Pipes | 17 |
| Defective Walls | 41 |
| Defective W.C.'s | 8 |
| Defective Windows | 22 |
| Defective Woodwork | 14 |
| Dirty Condition of Premises | 8 |
| Insanitary Ashpits | 2 |
| Insanitary Drainage | 127 |
| Want of Ashtins | 8 |
| Absence of Washing Facilities | 5 |
| Fouled Watercourses | 67 |
| Middens | 1 |
| Miscellaneous | 194 |

CLEANSING.

During the period under review, the labour situation showed an improvement, and in consequence, a weekly collection of dry refuse was instituted for the urbanised Parishes of Farington, Penwortham and Lea, whilst, following the delivery of a new refuse collection vehicle, the Eaves area of Woodplumpton and the Inglewhite and Whitechapel area of Goosnargh were included in the scheme for regular cleansing. All other parishes, including the two new areas, were on a fortnightly collection of dry refuse, and, as far as circumstances permitted, the usual weekly and fortnightly collection of pails was maintained.

The work is carried out by direct labour, and the following table shows the amount of work done by the motor refuse vehicles from 1st January to 31st December, 1949.

| Vehicle | Type | Mileage | Petrol (galls.) | Oil (qts.) | Loads No. | Estimated weight of Refuse in Tons. | Miles per Gallon of Petrol. |
|------------|---------------------|---------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| A.R.N. 512 | (Lewin) | 3594 | 1433 | 110 | 619 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 3468 | 2.51 |
| A.R.N. 858 | (Ford) | 7408 | 1292 | 127 | 396 | 848 | 5.73 |
| R.N. 3679 | (Ford) | 4609 | 693 | 157 | 441 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 968 | 6.65 |
| C.C.K. 178 | (Ford) | 8709 | 1171 | 33 | 619 | 1311 | 7.44 |
| D.T.B. 622 | (Karrier Bantam) | 5152 | 533 | 36 | 387 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 783 | 9.66 |
| F.N.D. 324 | (Fordson) | 7106 | 898 | 34 | 497 | 1021 | 7.91 |
| A.R.N. 181 | (Karrier) | 7874 | 746 | 143 | 554 | 1181 | 10.55 |
| C.R.N. 663 | (Fordson) | 1976 | 298 | 11 | 196 | 432 | 6.63 |
| | Totals | 46428 | 7076 | 651 | 3710 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 10012 | 7.13 |

Ten thousand two hundred and sixty-one houses were cleared during the year.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping. Five tips are in operation and trained men are employed to carry out the work.

SALVAGE.

The following table analyses the weight and cash value of materials salvaged during the year 1949:—

| Materials. | Tons | Cwts. | Qrs. | lbs. | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------|------|-------|------|------|--------|-----|----|
| Mixed Paper | 207 | ... | 17 | ... | 3 | ... | 5 |
| Magazines | 6 | ... | 4 | ... | 2 | ... | 17 |
| Newspaper | 1 | ... | 9 | ... | 3 | ... | — |
| Rags | 6 | ... | 11 | ... | 2 | ... | 2 |
| Rough Textiles | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 26 |
| String | — | ... | 8 | ... | 3 | ... | 16 |
| Aluminium | — | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | — |
| Mixed Metal | — | ... | 2 | ... | — | ... | — |
| Batteries | — | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | — |
| Bottles | — | ... | 7 | ... | 2 | ... | — |
| Bones | — | ... | 6 | ... | — | ... | 2 |
| TOTALS | 227 | ... | 15 | ... | 2 | ... | 12 |
| | | | | | £1,509 | 8 | 1 |

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 147 factories on the register, and their condition is satisfactory. Thirty-three new factories have been added to the register during the year. One hundred inspections have been made, and four notices served.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 26 bakehouses on the register. Frequent visits are made to these places and they are on the whole kept clean.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

There have been no inspections carried out during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND INSPECTIONS.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933:—

Forty-three licences for Slaughtermen were issued.

Number of licensed slaughter-houses—1.

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, we received 1,548 notices of intention to slaughter, all of which were in respect of permits granted by the Food Control Committee for home consumption, and not for sale.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Joint Rivers Board has jurisdiction in regard to rivers and stream pollution over the whole of the rural area.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

There are five disposal works in the Rural area, and everything is being done to maintain them in a satisfactory manner.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

The under-mentioned properties have been dealt with during the year:—
SECTION 11.

A.—FORMAL ACTION.

1. *Houses Demolished.*

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Lion Cottages, Woodplumpton.
Simpson's Cottage, Woodplumpton.

2. *Undertakings Accepted.*

(a) *Houses not to be used for human habitation.*
Proven Cottage, Hall Carr Lane, Longton.
Rose Cottage, Hall Carr Lane, Longton.
Bell Cottage, Hall Carr Lane, Longton.

(b) *Houses to be re-constructed.*

Ball's Farm, Brook Lane, Little Hoole.

3. *Houses scheduled for Demolition.*

The Cottage, Moor Lane, Hutton.
Dandy Cottage, Haunders Lane, Much Hoole.
Hoole Cottage, Station Road, Much Hoole. Occupier, Mr.
Bretherton.
Hoole Cottage, Station Road, Much Hoole. Occupier, Mr.
Parkinson.

B.—INFORMAL ACTION.

1. *Houses demolished.*

Green Lane Farm, Catforth, Woodplumpton.
Alker Fold Cottage, Samlesbury.
Cottage corner of Knoll Lane, Little Hoole.

2. *Voluntary Undertakings.*

(a) *House converted to farm buildings.*
Lower Hall Farm, Penwortham.
(b) *House not to be used for human habitation.*
Cottage adjacent to Lane Ends Farm, Much Hoole.

SECTION 9.

A.—FORMAL ACTION.

4, Sea View, Walmer Bridge; Pipe House Farm, Drumacre Lane, Longton.
Work in progress, but not yet complete.

B.—INFORMAL ACTION.

Beech House, Liverpool Road, Longton; 3, Southport Terrace, Lostock
Hall; Bank's Farm, Station Road, Hoole. Work completed.

Slum Clearance.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Housing Act, 1936.

The following table shows action taken in the various Parishes in the Rural District with regard to slum clearance from 1940 to 1949, inclusive:—

| PARISH. | | | HOUSES. | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-------------|--------------|--|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Demolished. | | Undertakings accepted following formal action. | | Voluntary action by owners. | | Scheduled for demolition. |
| | | | Form-ally. | Inform-ally. | Not to be used for human habitation. | Re-construction | Converted to farm buildings. | Not to be used for human habitation. | |
| Barton | ... | ... | ... | ... | I | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Broughton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | I |
| Cuerdale | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dutton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Farington | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Goosnargh | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Grimsargh | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Haighton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hothersall | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hutton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | I |
| Lea | ... | ... | 4 | ... | I | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Little Hoole | ... | ... | ... | I | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Longton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | I | ... | ... | 4 |
| Much Hoole | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | I | ... | I | 3 |
| Penwortham | ... | ... | 3 | ... | I | 2 | I | ... | 10 |
| Ribchester | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Samlesbury | ... | ... | ... | I | ... | I | ... | ... | ... |
| Whittingham... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | I | ... | ... | ... |
| Woodplumpton | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| TOTALS | ... | ... | 13 | 6 | 9 | 6 | I | I | 29 |

Slum Clearance.

Action taken during the year 1949 only.

| PARISH. | | | HOUSES. | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|------------------|--------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | | | Demolished. | | Undertakings accepted following formal action. | | Voluntary action by owners. | | Scheduled for demolition. |
| | | | <i>Formally.</i> | <i>Informally.</i> | <i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i> | <i>Re-construction</i> | <i>Converted to farm buildings.</i> | <i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i> | |
| Barton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Broughton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cuerdale | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dutton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Farington | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Goosnargh | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Grimsargh | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Haighton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hothersall | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Hutton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | I |
| Lea | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Little Hoole | ... | ... | ... | I | ... | I | ... | ... | ... |
| Longton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Much Hoole | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | I | 3 |
| Penwortham | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | I | ... | ... |
| Ribchester | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Samlesbury | ... | ... | ... | I | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whittingham... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Woodplumpton | ... | ... | 4 | I | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| TOTALS | ... | ... | 4 | 3 | 3 | I | I | I | 4 |

PETROLEUM ACTS.

No. of new licences granted for storing petrol during the year—3.
No. of renewal licences granted during the year—90.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings on the Register.

TENTS, VANS, ETC.

Tents and vans were inspected and any necessary action taken under the Bye-Laws of 1937.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

During the period under review, the District Council was authorised to carry out, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, all the inspectoral duties required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934. Previously, the District Council had only been responsible for those duties under Section 10.

Of the 263 shops on the register, 12 having been added to the register during the year, 136 of them were visited and inspected under the delegated scheme. All the shops, except three, were found to comply with the provisions of the Act. In each of the three cases referred to, females were employed, but the sanitary accommodation was insufficient for them. Informal notices were served in each case, and were complied with.

RAG FLOCK ACTS.

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No consent has been given by the Local Authority for the establishment of any offensive trade in the Rural area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No special action was taken with regard to smoke abatement during the year.

ANTHRAX.

Ten cases were notified during the year:—

- 3 cases at Goosnargh.
- 1 case at Longton.
- 1 case at Farington.
- 2 cases at Barton.
- 1 case at Ribchester.
- 2 cases at Whittingham.

The premises were visited, and the burning of the carcasses and disinfection under Police supervision were found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

SWINE FEVER.

One case was notified during the year.

One case at Woodplumpton.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

No cases were notified during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk supply—action taken with regard to:—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts, Orders and Regulations, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

At the transfer of records on the 1st October, 1949, the total number of dairy farms on the register was 758. Of this total, 127 farms had been granted an Accredited Licence and 82 farms a Tuberculin Tested Licence by the Lancashire County Council. In addition, but at the 31st December, 1949, there were 121 milk distributors on the register, 18 of which were dairymen or milk distributors other than cowkeepers. The number of dairies on the register (not being dairy farms) was eight.

There were 376 inspections of farms and dairies during the year, and eight notices were served.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936 TO 1946.

The following licences have been granted during the period under review:—

| | |
|--|----|
| Dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in respect of milk retailed in the Preston Rural area | 21 |
| Dealers' licences to retail Tuberculin Tested milk in the Preston Rural area | 11 |
| Dealers' licence to retail Accredited Milk in the Preston Rural area | 1 |
| Bottling licences in respect of Tuberculin Tested milk | 2 |
| Licence in respect of Pasteurisation Plants | 1 |
| Supplementary Licence to Retail Pasteurised Milk in the Preston Rural Area | 1 |

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938.

Prior to the 1st October, 1949, the County Public Health Department received eight notifications in most cases from County Boroughs, that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in the Preston Rural area.

In accordance with Part IV. of the Agricultural Act, 1937, the information was passed on to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who arranged for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned. As a result of the investigations, four cows were reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938.

MILK SAMPLING.

The following samples of milk were taken, and subjected to the minit test for dirt, with the following results:—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| No. of samples taken | 97 |
| „ „ found to be clean | 90 |
| „ „ very slightly contaminated | 3 |
| „ „ slightly contaminated | 2 |
| „ „ found to be dirty | 2 |

Ninety-seven samples have been taken for the Bacterial and Methylene Blue Reductase tests, with the following results:—

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Satisfactory | 65 |
| Unsatisfactory | 32 |

Twenty samples have been taken in the district for the presence of tubercle bacilli:—

Results ... Nil Positive. 20 Negative.

Two samples of Pasteurised milk were taken and subjected to the Phosphatase test, with the following results: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Samples sufficiently heat treated | 2 |
| Samples insufficiently heat treated | — |

SHOPS.

All shops and premises coming within the purview of Section 13, or registered under Section 14, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been inspected, and though the general standard is fairly satisfactory, such premises will be kept under constant review.

The total number of shops on the register is 78, and during the year 172 inspections were carried out.

Sixty-three of the above premises are registered for the manufacture and sale or storage and sale, of ice cream. This figure includes 10 new registrations during the year.

Forty-four retailers sell pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

The following is a summary of the Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

| Description. | Tons. | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. | Ozs. |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| 250 Tins Evaporated Milk | — | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Oranges | — | 1 | 1 | 20 | — |
| Service Biscuits | 4 | 2 | 1 | 22 | — |
| 15 Tins Carrots | — | — | 1 | 7 | 12 |
| 5 tins Peas | | | | | |
| 4 tins Evaporated Milk | | | | | |
| 1 tin Marmalade | | | | | |
| 1 tin Grape Fruit | | | | | |
| 5 tins Veal Loaf | | | | | |
| 2 tins Stewed Plums | | | | | |
| Frozen Eggs | — | — | 1 | 12 | — |
| Total Weight | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 12 |

In addition, four pigs' heads and two pigs' plucks were condemned for Tuberculosis.

Wherever possible, the condemned foodstuff was diverted to animal feeding. The disposal of the service biscuits was referred to the Ministry of Food, Salvage Section, Manchester.

PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS.

The following schedule gives the Playing Fields provided in the Rural District, and an indication of the area on each field available for games:—

| Situation | Whole area | Area for games | | | | Area let off for | |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|-----|-----|----|------------------|-----------|
| | | Acres | | | | Grazing | Ploughing |
| Barton | 5 | ... | 5 | ... | — | ... | — |
| Broughton | 5 | ... | 5 | ... | — | ... | — |
| Farington | 10½ | ... | 5 | ... | — | ... | 5½ |
| Grimsargh | 12 | ... | 6 | ... | — | ... | 6 |
| Hurst Grange, Penwortham | 16½ | ... | 11½ | ... | 5 | ... | — |
| Hutton | 7 | ... | 7 | ... | — | ... | — |
| Lea | 16½ | ... | 5 | ... | 5½ | ... | 6 |
| Little Hoole | 4 | ... | 4 | ... | — | ... | — |
| Longton | 6 | ... | 6 | ... | — | ... | — |
| Much Hoole | 5 | ... | 5 | ... | — | ... | — |
| New Longton | 9 | ... | 5½ | ... | — | ... | 3½ |
| Queensway, Penwortham | 5 | ... | 5 | ... | — | ... | — |
| Penwortham Hall | 18½ | ... | 4½ | ... | 14 | ... | — |
| Tardy Gate | 5½ | ... | 1½ | ... | — | ... | 4 |
| Woodplumpton | 6½ | ... | 2 | ... | 4½ | ... | — |
| Totals | 132 | ... | 78 | ... | 29 | ... | 25 |

During the year a great deal of maintenance work has been carried out, and in most instances, those parts of the fields which were free, were brought up to the pre-war standard. In addition, the playing fields at Hutton, Barton and Longton west were released from the Plough-up order. The Woodplumpton field was made available for children.

The work of the Department also included the planting of trees and shrubs on Housing Estates, and mowing the grass verges.

Rodent Report.

STAFF.

During the year one Rodent Officer was employed.

SEWERS.

During the year, maintenance treatment of the Council's sewerage system was carried out with negative results.

SEWAGE WORKS.

The Council's Sewage Works at Penwortham, Grimsargh, Ribchester and Farington were treated periodically, and infestation kept down to a minor level.

TIPS.

The Council's refuse tips at Penwortham, Whittingham, Ribchester and Hoole were also treated periodically with excellent results, but though minor infestation only now exists, regular visits will be made to these tips in the coming year, and any signs of infestation dealt with accordingly.

PREMISES.

During the year 91 complaints of rodents were received and investigated. In 61 cases, no evidence of infestation was found. In the remaining 30 cases, premises were treated in the approved manner, and infestation cleared.

BAIT.

The bait used was sausage rusk and stale bread mash.

POISONS.

The poisons used were Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic. In one instance Red Squill was used.

RESULTS.

Estimated number of rats destroyed, 517. Total number of rats found, 142.

Infestation. Three of the reservoir type and four of the major type were reduced to minor, and re-treatment is to be made. Thirty of the minor type were cleared, and no post baits were taken.

The house-to-house search instituted in accordance with instructions received from the Divisional Rodent Officer was continued throughout the year in all Parishes, with little to report apart from mice infestation. In these cases, advice was tendered and mouse traps loaned to the occupiers of dwelling-houses concerned with good results.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Report of Building Inspector.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a Report on the buildings dealt with during the year 1949.

The table below shows the number and situation of new houses which were erected:—

| Parish | | | | | Dwelling houses erected |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------|
| Barton ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Broughton | ... | .. | ... | ... | 2 |
| Cuerdale | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Farington | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Goosnargh | ... | .. | .. | ... | 28 |
| Grimsargh | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Hutton... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Lea ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 198 |
| Little Hoole | ... | ... | .. | ... | 26 |
| Longton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Much Hoole .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Penwortham | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Ribchester | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Samlesbury | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Woodplumpton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| TOTAL... | | | | | 393 |

The following visits have been made in connection with the erection of houses by private enterprise:—

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Inspection of Site | 109 |
| Inspection of Foundations | 102 |
| Inspection of Drainage | 123 |
| Inspection on Completion | 111 |

In addition, 1,157 visits were made to the Council's Housing Estates, and 73 inspections were carried out in connection with Civil Building licences.

TOWN PLANNING.

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Planning Authority for the Rural District, and under delegated powers, 449 applications to develop were received and considered by this Council with the following results:—

| | |
|---|-----|
| Permission granted | 66 |
| Permission granted, subject to conditions | 314 |
| Refused | 26 |
| Deferred | 43 |

H. COLLIER,

Building Inspector.

Report on Water Supply.

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

This report is a continuation of the report submitted by the Medical Officer of Health, and deals solely with the work of the Department during the year 1949.

The number of connections shows a decrease, as does the number of extensions, compared with the preceding year—this you will notice by the following figures:—

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----|-----------|
| Connections | 1948 | ... | 342 |
| Connections | 1949 | ... | 282 |
| Extensions of Mains | 1948 | ... | 3698 yds. |
| Extensions of Mains | 1949 | ... | 2263 yds. |

The following table shows the connections made in the various Parishes during the year:—

| PARISH | Houses | Lime taps | Green- houses | Troughs | Battery Cabins | Can- teen | Farms | Schools | Small- holding | Mission | Garages |
|----------------|--------|--------------|------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------|-------|---------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| FARINGTON | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| HUTTON | 7 | 1 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| LEA | 121 | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| LITTLE HOOLE | 12 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| LONGTON | 37 | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| MUCH HOOLE . | 25 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| PENWORTHAM . | 14 | 4 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| RIBCHESTER ... | 20 | 3 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| SAMLESBURY .. | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 246 | 11 | 1 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

Extensions to Water Mains for the year are as follows:—

| Parish | 2" | 3" | 4" | 5" |
|---------------------|-----|-------------|-----|-----|
| | | <i>Yds.</i> | | |
| Lea | 20 | 573 | ... | .. |
| Longton | ... | 430 | ... | ... |
| Little Hoole | 36 | 230 | ... | ... |
| Much Hoole | ... | 145 | ... | ... |
| Ribchester | 76 | 115 | ... | ... |
| Hutton | ... | ... | ... | 560 |
| Penwortham | ... | 54 | 24 | ... |
| Totals ... | 132 | 1547 | 24 | 560 |

In addition, general routine maintenance of the Undertaking was carried out, and the following general summary gives a brief survey of the work entailed:—

| | |
|---|-----------|
| No. of taps re-washed | 302 |
| No. of Service Pipes repaired | 37 |
| No. of Mains repaired | 16 |
| No. of Ball Hydrants repaired | 1 |
| No. of Ball Hydrants converted to screw-down type | 20 |
| No. of new Hydrants installed | 5 |
| No. of Meters changed | 27 |
| No. of Ferrules cleaned | 39 |
| Length of Mains scraped | 1842 yds. |
| No. of Visits to Consumers' premises | 147 |

Further, despite labour difficulties, regular flushing was carried out in every Parish served by the Undertaking. In addition a survey was carried out of all consumers' premises with greenhouses situate south of the Ribble.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Water Engineer.

